

My Puppy Is Born:

Ella's Puppy Journal

December 25

For Christmas, my parents bought me a Labrador retriever puppy. The puppy isn't born yet though. Our name is on a list with a woman who raises Labs.

January 25

The breeder called in January to say that her dog was going to have a litter in March. It seems like such a long time to wait!

March 10

Today the breeder called to tell us that the puppies were born—ten of them! They won't be old enough to leave their mother until they are at least eight weeks old. They need to get the right nutrition from their mother's milk. More waiting!



Puppy Love

April 17

We visited the puppies today for the first time. The mother had nine all-black puppies and one yellow one! Ten Labrador retriever puppies crawled all over me. They were so cute! We chose the yellow puppy. Now I need to decide what to name him.

May 19

We brought our puppy home today, hurray! I named him Mars after my favorite planet. The breeder gave us a sock that had been in the pen with all the puppies. That way Mars has something that smells like his brothers and sisters to make him feel better.

June 2nd

We brought Mars to see the veterinarian. He got his 12-week puppy shots to help him stay healthy. The doctor said Mars is a very happy, healthy dog. I've already taught him to sit—Mars is very smart!



Ella and Mars—Puppy and people love!

September 26

Mars has grown all summer. He is getting big and strong and has a beautiful yellow coat! All of his sharp puppy teeth are gone and he has new white adult teeth. Next week he will go to the veterinarian to get neutered so he can't create puppies and so he will be more calm when he is an adult dog.

Timeline

January 25: The breeder calls to tell us her Labrador retriever is pregnant. It takes nine weeks from the time a dog gets pregnant to the time she has puppies.

March 10: The puppies are born!

April 17: The puppies are 5 weeks old. We visit them first time and choose our puppy.

May 19: My puppy is 10 weeks old and he came home today!

June 2: Mars goes to the veterinarian for his 12-week puppy shots.

July 2: Mars gets his last puppy shots.

September 26: We bring Mars to be neutered.

March 10: Mars is one year old. He is so much fun and everyone in our family loves him!